

Statewide News Release

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Hundreds Gather for Annual eHealth Summit

Leaders from around state honored for health information technology contributions

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Sept. 7, 2011) – Leaders in business, technology, health care, academia and government gathered today in Erlanger for Kentucky’s annual eHealth summit.

Sponsored by the Governor’s Office of Electronic Health Information (GOEHI), the event drew hundreds from around the state to the METS Center to present ideas and listen to state and national leaders speak about new initiatives in Health Information Technology (HIT). In addition, a number of health care providers and facilities were honored at the summit for their contributions in advancing the Kentucky Health Information Exchange (KHIE), the state’s electronic network used for the exchange of medical information between providers and facilities.

“Health information technology can do so much to improve care in Kentucky,” Gov. Steve Beshear said. “Implementing electronic health records and connecting to KHIE has the potential to make health care more efficient and can reduce medical errors. I applaud the providers and health care leaders of the Commonwealth, who have joined us in this effort and are working to build a healthier future.”

The summit gave participants the opportunity to discuss the progress, opportunities and challenges facing Kentucky as the state works to develop and implement KHIE. In addition, Farzad Mostashari, M.D., director of the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology, provided the keynote remarks during the morning session of the event.

Dr. Mostashari later assisted in the presentation of the Summit’s first “Pioneer Awards” to providers and facilities around the state that have made significant contributions to the success of KHIE. Award winners included:

- Pikeville Medical Center, Pikeville, first hospital with live access to KHIE;
- Commonwealth Health Corporation, Bowling Green, first hospital group with live access to KHIE;
- David Jaco, Murray, first optometrist with live access to KHIE;
- Ephraim McDowell Hospital, Danville, expedience in connecting to KHIE;
- Murray-Calloway Hospital, Murray, first hospital to submit data via KHIE;
- University of Kentucky Regional Extension Center, Lexington, best collaborative partnership with KHIE;

- University of Louisville Hospital, Louisville, submitted the most data to KHIE; and
- Jeff Brady, former state Health Information Technology (HIT) Coordinator, Frankfort, first Kentucky HIT Coordinator.

Session topics included discussion on meaningful use and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) incentive payments; ONC initiatives and the future of Health IT; the Affordable Care Act; KHIE sustainability; and two breakout sessions.

“Technology has transformed so much of the American economy. Yet, in many ways, the health care industry is just catching on to what can be achieved,” said CHFS Secretary Janie Miller. “We want to help make our hospitals, provider offices and pharmacies even more productive and efficient by helping them implement electronic health records and connect to KHIE. This summit helps bring the right people together to make our vision a reality.”

For more information on KHIE or the EHR incentive program, including how to connect, visit: <http://khie.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx>.